

### REMARKS

Claims 1-54 and 56-79 are pending and stand rejected. All pending claims 1-54 and 56-79, as amended, are believed to be allowable over the references cited by the Examiner as discussed below. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for the present application is respectfully requested.

#### Amendment of Claims

Independent claims 1, 15, 26, 33, 40, 51, 56, 63, 66, 70, 75 are amended to clarify the subject matter of the invention. For example, independent claims 1, 26, 33, 40, 70, and 75 are generally amended to recite independent and direct controlling, monitoring and/or testing of an accessory by a headset adapter (or a headset adapter base).

#### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 15-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 15, 26, and 33 are amended to clarify the subject matter of the invention.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-39 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

#### Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 52-69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Independent claims 52, 63, and 66 are amended to clarify that the communications protocol is implemented by headset adapter base and/or an accessory.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 52-69 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

#### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 14, 26, 27, 33, 40, 45, 70, 71, 75 and 76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endick et al. (USPN 5,339,360) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art.

However, independent claim 1 is amended to generally recite that "the accessory is configured to be independently and directly controlled and monitored by the headset adapter."

In contrast, Endick neither discloses nor suggests that a headset adapter independently and directly controls the headset accessory, as noted by the Examiner (with reference to the indication that claims 15-25 would be allowable if rewritten or amended).

Claims 51 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endick et al. (USPN 5,339,360) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art and further in view of Yamaguchi, King, and Waechter. However, independent claim 51 is amended in a similar manner as independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 51 and dependent claim 52 are believed to be allowable at least for similar reasons as set forth above with regard to independent claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 51 and 52 is respectfully requested.

#### Combination of Endick with Secondary References

The deficiencies of Endick are not overcome with the addition of secondary references. In particular, various dependent claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endick in view of Yamaguchi, King, Miesterfeld, Waechter, Jones, Yamada, and/or Tanaka. However, these claims are believed to be allowable at least for the similar reasons as set forth above with regard to Endick. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-13, 17-25, 28-32, 34-39, 41-44, 46-54, 59, 62-65, 67-69, 72-74, and 77-79 is respectfully requested.

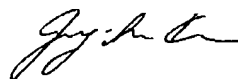
#### CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter accompanying this document is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136 and/or any other relief is required, Applicant hereby petitions for any required relief including Extensions of Time and/or any other relief and authorizes the Commissioner to charge

the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2315 (Order No. 01-3876).

Respectfully submitted,



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